

10/552864

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 OCT 2005
PCT/EP04/50287

Written Opinion of the Inter-
national Searching Authority

Appended Sheet

Point V:

- 1) The very generally formulated Claim 1 is concerned with recording a measure for the temperature of a component, the measure for the temperature being compared to a predefined temperature threshold value, and with counting the number of times the threshold value is exceeded, and with a count threshold value being predefined for the number of times the threshold is exceeded, and that a service signal is made available in response to the exceeding of the count threshold value.

This procedure corresponds to a method, that is usual in signal measuring technology, in order to verify the meaningfulness of individual measured values, eliminate individual measuring errors and, in general, to have available a representative value for a service signal (see, for example, EP 1 202 890 = D1).

- 2) The generic object of the present Application is to avoid the freezing of a reagent that is to be supplied to an exhaust gas system (in particular, an urea solution which freezes between -10° and -14° C, depending on its concentration).

Since this problem, too, is known from the related art, and provisions for a solution of the problem are also available for this, see, for example, WO 01/06098 or WO 96/08639 or DE 44 32 577, it appears obvious to use the

81323018/00

generally known measuring method as described above under 1), for an optimal signal recording and for producing a service signal.

In the content of the claim, therefore, no inventive activity according to Article 33(3) PCT is to be seen.

- 3) The contents of dependent Claims 2 through 10 lie within the scope of that which one skilled in the art would also do while considering the present related art, without becoming inventively active in this context.